

## **INITIAL INFORMATION THE NATIONAL MARITIME OPERATIONS CENTRE EXPECTS TO RECEIVE**

1. An immediate response to reported marine pollution or a risk of significant pollution is important. Incidents at sea should be reported urgently to an MCA National Maritime Operations Centre (NMOC). If an incident occurs in a harbour, it should be reported to the Harbour Master who immediately informs a NMOC. Operators of offshore installations immediately inform their nearest NMOC, and the Department of Energy and Climate Change, of any spill of hydrocarbons or other pollutants, of any quantity.
2. The NMOC contacts the ship or offshore installation to ascertain, among other things:
  - the nature of incident (collision, loss of containment, etc.);
  - the number of persons on board;
  - the type, size and name of the ship or installation;
  - the identity of the owner or operator;
  - the precise location, course and speed of the ship, and its proximity to other ships, offshore installations, shallow water and the shore;
  - information on the ship's cargo and bunkers (type and quantity), stores and whether any are hazardous;
  - the structural and mechanical integrity of the ship or installation;
  - the on-scene weather, sea state and tidal conditions;
  - any assistance available to the casualty;
  - any measures already taking place; and
  - any future intentions of the Master or Offshore Installations Manager (OIM).
3. The NMOC initiates any search and rescue response required and then reports any pollution incident or a risk of significant pollution (whether or not known to involve oil or any other hazardous substance and even if of unknown origin) to the MCA's Duty Counter Pollution and Salvage Officer (DCPSO). The NMOC compiles a Pollution Report and sends this to mandatory addressees contained within the MCA Operational Management System.
4. Any other organisation (for example, a local authority, harbour authority or environmental organisation) receiving a report of marine pollution of any quantity, or a threat of marine pollution, whether from a ship, offshore installation or unknown source, should send that information immediately to the nearest MRCC. The NMOC alerts the DCPSO.
5. Organisations sending information should make every practicable effort to identify, as a basis for decisions:
  - the nature and quantity of the pollutant involved;
  - its location and extent;

- its source;
- the weather, sea state and tidal conditions in the area;
- the state of incident, and
- the events and actions so far